

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 18, 1878, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Saturday April 17 , 1878. [Aug, 18] My darling Alec:

I was disappointed not to hear from you this morning I thought you would have plenty of time and nothing much to do in Liverpool. I suppose you are safely in Dublin at last and I hope already beginning to enjoy the Society there. Tyndal is there is he not. I hope you will see a great deal of him, he seemed such a good old man. And if you are disappointed in them see where and why, that others may not be disappointed in you. I am so anxious to hear all about it, stay as long as you can, I am so thankful to think you have gone. Can't you write to Mr. Wollaston and ask him to send the Queen's telephones to Mr. Watson, that they may be returned in time for you to give to the Queen. It would much aid you in your work next winter if you could return while the newspapers are telling of your second Reception by the Queen. Haven't you written to Mr. Max Muller. Mamma still says she will sail in Algeria if you will give those lectures.

We have engaged rooms for next week. There were two houses to choose from, one of the commonest kind, but clean, costing about three and a half guineas, extras included, for the whole party, the other four and a half, extras not included, clean and very nicely furnished. In both places we shall have to provide our own board. We have taken the nicer place, for Mamma thought you would not like our taking the commoner, barer one. Do you know you have got the reputation among us of being very particular, much more so than we. Why is that? You never have lived as well as we — a few years ago Papa was a very wealthy man, and we had our saddle and carriage horses 2 and summer house in Newport, and yet we don't mind living cheaply as you do. You dear old darling, to be sure I know you would live in the poorest and shabbiest of lodging houses if only your wife and

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baby were well cared for. Haven't you done it? But I know you cared more about it than I should have done. Baby is out of doors, her arm locks dreadfully, poor little thing. The first mark has grown as big as a farthing piece and the other three are swelling. Tomorrow the poor little arm will be all swollen. But she really is very good about it though sometimes worried. Mamma and Berta are in town now but we expect them back very soon. I have written to Mr. Home asking him to insert my advertisements I could not make up my mind to ask Mr. Scott.

I love you very much indeed and be sure you look nice and clean. Can't you ask the boots to brush your coat for you. If you get a new suit cannot you have it all grey or brown?

With very much love, Your own loving, May.

Your letter has just come, how I wish I could pay you in your own coin and write as nice letters. I am so thankful you are satisfied you have done right in going. I felt that if you did not your trip would be spoilt. Sister thinks we must take the Abyssinia but of course Mamma must decide. I hope your trousers will fit!